करना चाहते कि आप कितना प्वाइंट, कहां क्या करें, लेकिन हम यह जरूर चाहते हैं कि हमारे जो concerns हैं, वे concerns वहां पर highlight हों और सदन की राय आपके सामने आ जाए, यही मेरा निवेदन है।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as discussion on the floor of the House is concerned, there is a methodology to decide on which subject and how the discussion will take place. I do not think there will be any problem to have discussion either on the floor of the House or with all the political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be better to have discussion with all the political parties. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already indicated that a decision has been taken to have discussions with political parties, with stake-holders including trade unions, farmers' organisations and so on. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, discussion on the floor of the House would be better. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: वे जैसे भी तय करें, आप कर लीजिए। मैं इसे तय कर लूंगा, लेकिन ज्यादा अच्छा यह होगा कि political parties के representatives अलग से बैठकर बातचीत करें, तो उसके results निकलेंगे।

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, यह चर्चा स्वीकार हो चुकी है।

श्री सभापति: मैं कह रहा हूं ना? मैं कब मना कर रहा हूं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the situation is little better. Ten years ago I could not open my lid on WTO on the floor of this House, after the Marrakesh Agreement. Today, at least, I could answer some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Signature campaign against power hike in the Capital

*105. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that signature campaign against power hike in the Capital has taken place demanding withdrawal of recent increase in power tariff;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether any direction for reconsideration of hike was given to the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government has no powers to give directions to a State Government in matter of electricity tariff.

As per the information made available by the Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) *vide* its order dated 07.07.2005 on 'Annual Revenue Requirement and determination of retail supply tariff', increased the retail supply tariff by an average of around 6.6%.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to provide subsidy under section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, as follows:

To subsidise 50% of the approximately 10% hike in the domestic category tariff caused by order of DERC dated 07.07.2005 for a period of one year *w.e.f.* 15.07.2005.

To subsidise 100% of the approximately 20% hike in agricultural category caused by order of DERC dated 07.07.2005 for a period of one year *w.e.f.* 15.07.2005.

Further, as per DERC order dated 23.09.2005, the Distribution Companies are providing incentive to domestic category consumers so that remaining 50% of tarif hike is neutralized.

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am not very convinced with the answer and I feel it is incomplete.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that ten lakh electricity meters have been installed in Delhi and thery are running very fast and, therefore, people of Delhi have to pay much more than the actual consumption of electricity by them. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that there is collection of Rs. 12,500 crores in privatising electricity in Delhi which fact has also been endorsed by the Standing Committee of Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee, the Accountant General and also experts in the field of electricity.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Sir, the question was very limited, to the extent whether it was a fact that there was a signature campaign against power hike in the Capital and, if so, whether any direction for reconsideration of hike was given to the State Government. I have specifically stated that we are aware of the signature campaign. As you know, as per the Act of 2003, electricity is in the Concurrent List. As far as distribution is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State. What we have done is, the moment we received it, we sent it to the State Government. We are not empowered to give any direction to the State Government.

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Chief Minister of Delhi herself has admitted that there were misgivings in the whole affair of privatising electricity, including transmission loss and power theft. I also want to know whether it is true that high rates of electricity are charged after privatising electricity in Delhi. What are the comparative rates of electricity charged by other States?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, as per the information available from the National Capital Teritory of Delhi, they have a tariff hike of 6.6 per cent. Because of public sentiments, they have decided to give subsidy under section 65 of the Electricity Act. That much I know.

With regard to other complaints about distribution and consumers, Sir, it does not arise out of this question.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, the basic question is, subsidy is being given by the State Government; instead of forcing the private players to reduce the tariff. That holds good for the whole of the country. Is this the price of privatisation? *(Interruptions)* Why can't I give subsidy to the State?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let him reply.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : The private fellow has to be given the subsidy by the State. What is the big fun in privatising it? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : That is the main question. Why should there be privatisation? What is the fun in privatising when subsidy has to be given by the State Government?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, according to the Electricity Act, the States have their own Regulatory Commissions and the Centre has got its own Regulatory Commission. Even the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission cannot interfere with the functioning of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Even the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission cannot interfere with the functioning of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Therefore, the Central Government cannot interfere with the tariff hikes already fixed by the Regulatory Commissions. As you know, those hikes are fixed after hearing all the stakeholders. After hearing everybody, then, they consider whether the tariff should be enhanced or not. Therefor...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : I agree, Sir. My point is on the basic issue about those who are trying for privatisation and privatisation. If these are the examples where the State Government has to give subsidy, instead of forcing the private players to reduce the tariff, then, what is the idea of privatisation? It is subsidising the private companies with public money. This is the policy direction which has to be followed by the whole country. This cannot be a precedent for other private companies to come and then get subsidy from the Government. *(Interruptions)*

डॉ॰ (श्रीमती) नजमा ए॰ हेपतुल्ला : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह जवाब दिया कि स्टेट का टैरिफ रेगुलेशन कमीशन अलग-अलग स्टेट में अलग-अलग है, जो अपने टैरिफ को डिसाइड करता है और उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट का अलग टैरिफ रेगुलेशन सिस्टम है, तो मैं उनसे यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि जब सारी स्टेट्स इंडिपेंडेंटली अपने टैरिफ कमीशन का इस्तेमाल करती हैं, तो इनके सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के टैरिफ कमीशन का ज्युरिसडिक्शन क्या है?

श्री पी॰ एम॰ सईद : जितने पब्लिक सेक्टर एरियाज हैं, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का ज्युरिसडिक्शन वहीं पर है, मगर हरेक स्टेट का अपना ज्युरिसडिक्शन है और रेगुलेटरी कमीशन उसे सुपरवाइज करता है। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का जितना ज्युरिसडिक्शन है, वहां सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का रेगुलेटरी कमीशन सुपरवाइज करता है, मगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का ऐसा रोल नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.